



Dentistry for Children and Adolescents

Smile Highlights



Produced for Patients of Dr. Steven T. Kuhn, Dr. Dennis R. LaMonte and Dr. Niki Kasper

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fromthedentist

Periodontal Disease vs Healthy Teeth and Gums



Periodontal disease is the most common condition we diagnose. It often starts in the early teens and is a common cause of bad breath. It's a serious disease and the leading cause of tooth loss in adults over 35 years of age. The good news is proper oral hygiene habits at home, combined with regular visits to our office, can significantly reduce your chances of suffering from periodontal disease.

Periodontal disease attacks the gum, bone, and other tissues around the tooth. Gingivitis, an early form of periodontal disease is initially caused by toxic plaque (bacteria) and a buildup of an unattractive yellow substance called tartar that forms around tooth surfaces. Gum tissues become red and swollen and tend to bleed easily when brushing or flossing. Gingivitis can be relatively painless, so people often ignore it until it progresses into the more-serious disease called periodontitis.

Periodontitis develops when early intervention is overlooked. Pockets begin to form between the teeth and the gums, allowing more plaque and tartar to collect at an increased rate. The toxins that are released begin to permanently destroy both root tissue and supporting bone. Unless this condition receives proper treatment, it will lead to tooth loss.

Periodontal disease can be prevented. Keep your regular dental checkups, and keep up the good conscientious home care!

Dr. Niki Kasper



Happy New Year!

Thanks to you all

It was a great holiday and we've returned renewed, rejuvenated, and ready to get going for another year. We hope you had a terrific holiday season with friends and family, helping to make it special.

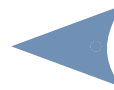
As this New Year dawns, we would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for being a part of our dental family. Your loyalty and patronage mean a lot to us, and we'd like you to know we appreciate it.

Here's to a Happy New Year, and once again, thank you for your business and your friendship.

Yours in good dental health,

Dr. Steve, Dr. Dennis, Dr. Niki and Staff

How We Protect You



Many people ask questions about the possibility of infection in the dental office. That's an understandable worry, especially when certain diseases are in the news so often. Most people don't realize that protecting patients from infection has been a top priority for dentists a lot longer than these diseases have been in the headlines.

Your safety and the safety of your child are of the utmost importance to us. In our office we follow special guidelines called Universal Precautions to make sure everyone is safe from infection. What do we do? The basic rule of thumb is cleanliness, disinfection, sterilization, and protective equipment. That means all surfaces are disinfected with approved chemicals between each patient.

Instruments that aren't disposable are cleaned and placed in special heat sterilizers. Waterlines have special valves and parts that are sterilized to prevent contamination by disease. "Mr. Thirsty" or that suction device that drains fluid from your mouth to prevent splatter is disposable.

Our staff takes special precautions too. Dental workers wear disposable gloves, masks, and goggles during procedures. In addition, vaccinations help keep our staff healthy. We make time for the continuing education required to keep us informed of new advances related to infection control.

No one should avoid visiting the dental office for fear of infection. If you have questions or concerns, please ask us. We are as concerned about infection control as you are.

Thank you for all your referrals. We appreciate them!

Say "Wow" Now!

With Zoom! Advanced Power

Teeth whitening has never been safer, faster or more effective, thanks to Zoom!® Advanced Power™, the very latest in-office teeth whitening system. The Zoom people call that the "wow factor" because patients are so completely wowed by the dazzling brightness of their smile!

Zoom! Advanced Power goes even beyond Zoom!® and Zoom2® whitening procedures that you may have seen on ABC's *Extreme Makeover*. That's because optics experts have created an exclusive custom light technology that has the highest output of any chairside whitening lamp available. Combining this light source with Zoom! Advanced Power 25% hydrogen peroxide gel, will create your super-wattage smile!

Wouldn't you like to achieve, in only one visit, what would normally take weeks to achieve at home? And these results really last! In fact, we can provide a customized take-home touch-up kit with custom-fitted trays for an annual perk-up.

Perhaps your teeth have discolored from the most common causes like tea, coffee, red wine, berries, or tobacco. Maybe

age or tetracycline is the culprit. Zoom! Advanced Power could be the answer you've been looking for! Call us today for your personal smile consultation. In only one office visit, your teeth could Zoom! to the top of the charts ... and then some!



**Age restrictions may apply*

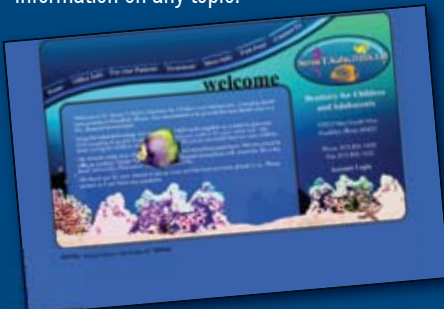


Teeth whitening is the highest-demanded dental procedure for patients aged twenty to fifty.

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For your information...

Our web site not only contains information about pediatric dentistry, but also has many articles related to adult dentistry and oral health. Just log on to www.drstevekuhn.com and click on "More Info". This will take you to a wide variety of topics such as dental implants, teeth whitening and cosmetic dentistry. As always, feel free to contact our office for further information on any topic.



If there is a topic you would like to know more about, we will be happy to include it in our newsletter. Just call our office or email your ideas to Imdrsteve@comcast.net.

New Year Insurance



The New Year can bring new insurance changes for many families. Many employers will purchase new plans and others will renew existing plans with modifications. This is the time of year we would like to remind you to check your dental insurance policy and inform our office of any changes as soon as possible. Informing us about your dental insurance plan in advance will help you maximize your insurance benefits.

Attractive Solutions

- Part of our job as your dental care provider is to try and work with you
- to ensure that your personal financial circumstances do not interfere with
- your dental health care decisions. This is why we recommend CareCredit®,
- an affordable payment program that has a unique no-interest payment
- plan. CareCredit enables healthcare providers to offer flexible payment
- options to cover out of pocket expenses and costs that many insurance
- plans currently do not cover.

- With CareCredit, you can pay for treatment over time. There are no
- up-front costs, or annual fees, no prepayment penalty, and the application
- process is quick and easy. CareCredit offers monthly payment plans to
- meet almost every need so that you can focus on what's most important -
- ensuring good dental care for you and your family.

Ask our office about CareCredit ... and begin treatment today!



My Child's New Permanent Teeth Are So Yellow!!

We hear parent's concerns about the shade or "yellow color", of their child's teeth every day. Some parents are convinced that this is a result of poor brushing habits. Even though plaque is a yellow-white color, the shade of newly erupting teeth is not usually due to poor brushing habits. Rather, it is the normal, natural shade of permanent teeth as they begin to erupt. Permanent teeth are made up differently on a cellular level, than primary teeth. As the permanent teeth mature, and are present in the mouth longer, the shade gradually begins to lighten. Baby teeth also reflect light differently than adult teeth. This natural occurrence makes the adult teeth appear more yellow. As new teeth begin to erupt, they usually appear right next to baby teeth, making the difference in color more dramatic.

Therefore, continue to encourage good brushing habits, making sure your child is brushing well along the gum-line, where plaque collects. It is possible that your child's teeth may not mature to the color they would like. However, someday, when your child is done growing, and root development is complete, there are several options to help brighten and whiten their smile.

Keep Them Smiling!

Regular recare makes all the difference

Your child's oral health is essential for overall health and well-being. Of course, an attractive smile and sweet breath are important confidence-builders at any age, but gum disease has been linked to systemic diseases including diabetes in children. In addition, difficulties with eating and speaking can create social and nutritional issues. Regular recare appointments, every 6 months, allow us to develop your child's personalized plan of care. We will be able to identify and prevent potential problems or catch them early before they become more serious, more painful, and more costly.

What can your child expect at each recare visit?

- Assessment
- A visual examination and x-rays to check for decay and/or a panoramic film to check orthodontic status, tooth alignment, and abnormalities
- Intra oral camera presentation
- An examination of gum tissue
- Oral cancer screening
- Assessment of biting, chewing, and swallowing patterns
- Evaluation of dental readiness for necessary procedures like orthodontics
- Reassessment of their overall treatment plan
- Prevention
- Cleaning and scaling teeth to remove plaque, tartar, and surface stains
- Application of fluoride
- Evaluation for sealants
- Education
- Instruction about brushing and flossing
- Oral Hygiene Home Care Kit
- Counseling about diet and its relationship to oral health
- Explanation of dental treatments, including orthodontics using visual aids

Our entire team takes great pride in creating a warm, welcoming, and supportive environment, and in building trusting relationships. You can rely on us to provide the personal care and attention your child deserves.

1 Provide toothbrushes with soft bristles, always use a fluoride toothpaste, and teach your child daily dental care.

2 Never allow your infant to go to sleep with a bottle containing formula, milk, or juice.

3 Make sure your child wears a custom-fitted mouthguard when playing sports.

Quick kid Tips

DORY, OUR PLAYFUL BLUE TANG

Have you ever played “hide and go seek” with a fish? If not, try doing so next time you come visit Dr. Steve, Dr. Dennis, or Dr. Niki. Dory, our resident Blue Tang, is a very active, happy fish that loves to play. She especially enjoys hiding in the coral and even has been seen chasing bubbles. When not hiding, it is not hard to find Dory as she swims cheerfully around the tank. Blue Tang fish are very popular and well known for their deep blue body and yellow tail. You may have seen Dory in the



Disney movie “Finding Nemo.” What is interesting though, is that Blue Tangs such as Dory are primarily yellow when they are born. They become vibrant blue as they get older.

Blue Tangs are native to reefs stretching between Africa and Japan, but now are very abundant and can be easily found elsewhere, such as in the Atlantic waters between New York and Brazil. Adult Blue Tangs can grow to be 12 inches long and are as flat as a pancake. They enjoy swimming between 6 and 130 feet below the ocean’s surface. Dory especially adores

the coral and rocks in her tank because she loves to eat algae and seaweed. By using her sharp teeth to scrape algae from the coral, she helps keep the entire tank clean and healthy. Dory has also been known to eat shrimp. In addition to providing food, coral reefs, rocks, and grassy areas help keep Blue Tangs safe from other fish. If that does not work, they will use their tails to keep the mean fish away.

Enjoy watching Dory as you wait for your next appointment. She may be out and ready to say hello, or else waiting for you to find her hiding in the coral!

office information

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 Financial Coordinators
 Kimberly Appointment Coordinator
 Kim Insurance Coordinator
 Sylvia, Aimee, Beth, Holly.....
 Treatment Coordinators



Put The Paste On The Brush!

You know the importance of proper brushing, but first you have to put the paste on the brush. Go through the maze and connect the toothpaste to the toothbrush without lifting your pencil.

Good Luck!

